

REMARKS

Initially, the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of claims 17 and 21.

The undersigned would also like to thank Examiner Phan and Supervisory Patent Examiner Eng for conducting a telephone interview on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 with Applicant's counsel, Safet Metjahic (Reg. No. 58,677). During the interview, counsel proposed the herein contained amendments and the subject matter of new claim 25, and the Examiners agreed to enter and consider the same. The Examiners also indicated that upon receipt of this Reply, the examiner would need to conduct an update search before allowing the application.

Applicant notes that this Reply is being submitted after a Final Office Action has been mailed. The Applicant recognizes that Applicant cannot, as a matter of right, amend any finally rejected claims and appreciates the Examiners' indication that they will enter the amendments herein upon receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Upon entry of this Reply, claims 2, 7, 8, 12-14, and 18-19 will have been amended, claims 1, 3-6, 9-11, 15-17, 20 and 22-24 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claim 25 will have been added. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application, including the subject matter of the canceled claims of the above captioned application. The Applicant has amended the claims, as set forth herein, to expedite prosecution. However, the Applicant submits that the amendments should not be construed as an admission to the propriety of the

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Examiner's rejections. In view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the claims now pending is allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the acceptance of the drawings filed July 30, 2003, and confirm the same in the next correspondence.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections together with allowance of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant notes that this Amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present Amendment. All amendments to the claims which have been made in this Amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

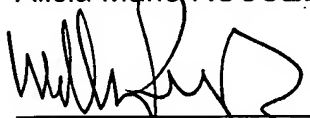
Applicant further notes the status of the present application as being an after final rejection and with respect to such status believes that there is a clear basis for the entry of the present Reply consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant notes amendments after final are not entered as a matter of right; however, Applicant submits that the amendments made to the pending claims do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration. It is also submitted that the present Amendment does not raise the question of new matter. Moreover, the present Amendment clearly places the present application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and indication of the allowability of the claims pending herein.

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Should there be any questions regarding this paper or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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